earlier type of man, one of the most primitive known, and, connected with them, of what seem to be artifacts and perhaps traces of the use of fire.

Another set of data to add to our fragmentary picture is what has been disclosed in Central Asia of a very early culture, probably greatly antedating anything of a similar grade yet found in China, and from which migrations into China, or at least cultural contributions through commerce, may have come. A possible cause of population movements may have been a decline in rainfall accompanying the retreat of the last ice sheet—perhaps twelve to twenty thousand years ago.

We also know of the early civilization of city-dwellers in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley and of an urban culture in Northwest India, probably as far back as the fourth millennium B.C. These centers seem older than anything of so high a type which has yet been found in China, and it is within the range of possibility that some impulse from them made itself felt in the North China plain.

One other group of facts is the increasingly accumulating evidence that both in historic and in prehistoric times transfers of culture occurred—partly through migrations of peoples—over the vast plains which cover much of the surface of Central and Western Asia and Eastern and Western Europe.

In the light of all these evidences, it is not strange that the majority of scholars who have recently dealt with the subject have looked westward for a clue to the sources of the Chinese and their civilization. That some early influences entered from the West appears to be well established. It is not yet clearly demonstrated whether these came through trade or the migrations of peoples or both. Neither is it known just how potent these were in shaping

the civilization of historic times. It is to be hoped that archeology will later have more to tell us.

CHINESE MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF THE BEGINNINGS OF HISTORY

While the oldest records do not attempt to trace to their beginnings either the Chinese race or mankind as a whole, from time to time popular fancy has essayed to do so, with the result that we possess mam?' tales bristling with mythical heroes. Although quite undependable as history, these stories are of importance, partly